

100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
ST. DAVID'S CHURCH
MANAYUNK
PHILADELPHIA

1831

1931

100th ANNIVERSARY

of the Founding of

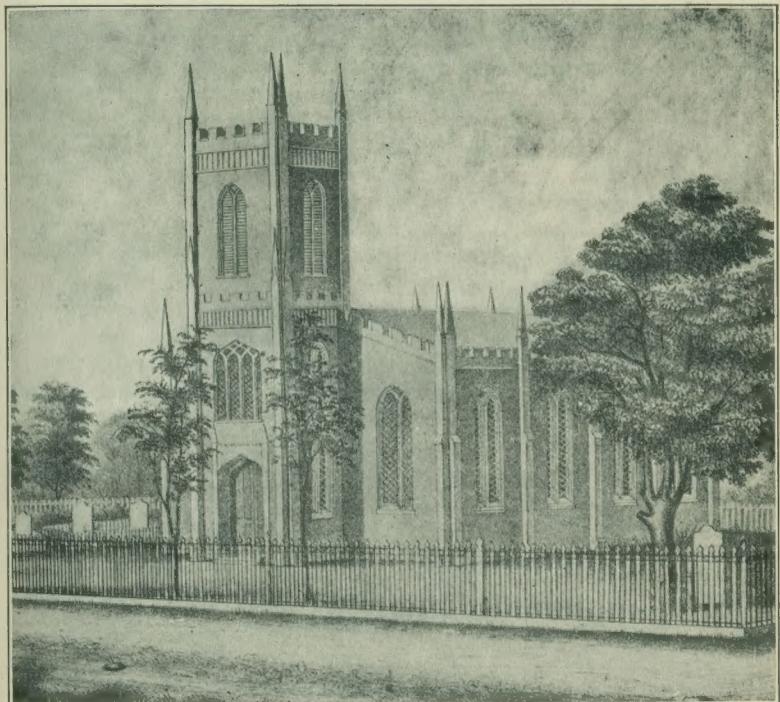
St. David's Episcopal Church

MANAYUNK - PHILADELPHIA

REV. J. OGLE WARFIELD, A.M., S.T.B., D.D., *Rector*

NOVEMBER 29th to DECEMBER 6th

— 1931 —



FIRST CHURCH

Corner Stone Laid August 13, 1832
Consecrated May 1, 1835

HISTORY OF ST. DAVID'S CHURCH

1831 — 1931

Compiled by

MISS IVA HAMPSHIRE

*Indebtedness for much of the following is acknowledged to the Records
of the Parish, a history of the Parish as published in the Church Standard
of May, 1899, and to the ninetieth anniversary review as published in the
Church Paper, known as "St. David's Parish."*

HE object of history has been said to be not so much to inform the present age as to guard against a time when our successors "will fail to treasure up the recollections of the past, and posterity will search in vain for memorials of the days of the patriarchs." The record of St. David's parish is far too satisfactory to permit of its loss: it has, undoubtedly, a glorious past, and all records show how truly noble were the men and women who sponsored its beginning and kept it alive, through years of great distress. "All honor to the years that have gone!"

It is recorded that in the year 1831 the town of Manayunk contained 317 dwellings and 2070 inhabitants. This estimate probably included the adjacent portions of Roxborough as well; but up to that time, so far as known, there had been no Episcopal services held there, unless, indeed by the British soldiers, who, during the Revolution, occupied trenches between School Lane and Wissahickon Creek.

The story of the beginning of St. David's Church is one of determined enthusiasm and faith. There were residing in the neighborhood three gentlemen who were members of the vestry of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia, Messrs. Tobias and Samuel Wagner, living on School Lane, and Charles V. Hagner, living in Manayunk. One day in November, 1831, Mr. Hagner received a visit from Rev. Robert Davis, who sought his interest in the enterprise of starting an Episcopal Church in Manayunk. When Mr. Hagner tried to dissuade him he showed him a list of the names of nearly three hundred persons affiliated with the church—names gathered by his own house to house visiting. As a result of this interview, on November 26th of that year, the following notice was posted through the village:

"The inhabitants of Manayunk and its vicinity, friendly to the establishment of a congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church of this place are requested to meet in the Academy, in this village, on Saturday, the

eighth day of December next, at six o'clock p. m., for the purpose of organizing a congregation.

"Signed:

Citizen."

The "Academy" in question was a school house that stood on a hill on the river side of the Main street, above Lock Street, about where the entrance to Schofield's Court is at present. In that building, in response to the call, fifteen persons met and determined to organize a congregation. They elected twelve vestrymen, and appointed a committee to arrange immediately for regular services. These men were full of zeal and in real earnest. They not only planned for the purchase of a lot, but they constituted themselves the committee, both to secure the funds and to spend them to the best advantage when secured. The names of the members of this first vestry are: Messrs. C. V. Hagner, Samuel Wagner, Tobias Wagner, John Whitehead, Travers Murphy, John Drivers, H. Ellis, Jos. Blank, Joseph Heywood, Augustus Neuman, C. T. Orth and Charles Duval.

The name "St. David's" was adopted—probably, from the name of some English Church with which one or more of the vestry remembered sacred associations (evidently not knowing that at Radnor, a few miles across the country, was a well established church of the same name).

The original subscription list, in the handwriting of Mr. Tobias Wagner, contains memoranda of subscriptions in sums ranging from fifty cents to three hundred dollars, coming from upward of three hundred and twenty-five persons, and amounting to a total of \$1,758.50. On June 13th, 1832, the title to a portion of the present lot was secured, the price being \$600; the erection of a building, measuring thirty-nine by sixty-four feet inside, was begun, and on August 2nd of that year the cornerstone was laid by Bishop H. U. Onderdonk. But as the work proceeded, the funds in hand soon dwindled away. At one vestry meeting after another we find them resolving to raise the amount necessary to tide them over an emergency; not

simply resolving, but resolving effectually, each vestryman pledging himself for a proportionate share of the sum required. Late in the Spring of 1835 the Church was finished and ready for use. On Friday, May 1st, of that year it was consecrated to Almighty God by the Bishop, assisted by the Missionary in charge, Rev. Christian F. Cruse, and by several clergymen from Philadelphia. Thus was that first temple solemnly set apart to the honor of God's great name, and separated, thenceforth, from all unhallowed, ordinary and common uses.

The Rev. Mr. Cruse resigned after the consecration, and in August the Rev. Frederick Freeman was unanimously elected Rector. The position was no sinecure, though he held it and did successful work for three years and a half, at a very small salary. In November, 1839, Rev. Mr. Jansen accepted the position, and held it about the same length of time, being obliged to consent, however, to a reduction in his salary—then offering to remit one-tenth of the balance—being finally obliged to earn an addition to the stipend by teaching school. For five months after his resignation the parish remained without a head.

During the next Rectorship, however, that of the Rev. Azariah Prior, lasting from 1843 till 1848, the prospects of the parish brightened and its strength increased, the people never, indeed, having lost faith and hope. The way began to open for a brighter future. In November, 1848, Rev. Milton C. Lightner followed Rev. Mr. Prior, and succeeded in clearing off all the mortgage indebtedness. He afterwards became one of the most distinguished clergymen of his day. A movement was next inaugurated to secure a much needed Sunday School building for the children of the parish. The services were very much more attended than formerly, and all the circumstances seemed to warrant an increase of the rate at which pews were rented and of the salary of the Rector, which was promptly done. But Mr. Lightner's incumbency was of short dura-

tion. In May, 1850, he resigned, and was followed by the Rev. B. W. Morris (later the Bishop of Oregon). Mr. Morris was full of youthful energy and vigor, which he threw into the work, his salary being at first six hundred dollars. He secured the purchase of the lot on which the Parish House stands, and accomplished the erection of the first Sunday School building. During his rectorship for the second time an advance in the rate of pew rents became possible, together with an increase of the salary, and the church itself was, in fact, becoming too small, when Mr. Morris was called away to Germantown, and in 1857 the financial crisis cast a wet blanket over all church enterprises.

It will, perhaps, give some idea of the scarcity of money to cite one specific incident. It being decided to put gas for lighting, in the church, bids were advertised and the contract let. For this sum subscriptions were asked, but, alas! the amount obtained was insufficient, and a committee of Messrs. Ogle, Crease and Stephens was appointed to get additional sums. The sum total of \$148.16 was finally received and paid.

In the Spring of 1857 Rev. J. W. Claxton came to St. David's. An able man and an active worker, Mr. Claxton took in the situation at a glance, and determined that the work of the parish should go on from the point at which Mr. Morris had left it. He allowed none of the projects that had been set on foot by his predecessor to fail, but carried them all to a successful issue. Among these was the enlargement of the church, which was done by adding thirty feet to the chancel end. He established a Sunday school, and an afternoon service two miles away, on the Ridge Road, and by 1862 this mission had grown into the independent parish of St. Albans, Roxborough, its first rector being the former assistant of St. David's, Rev. Marcus A. Tolman. Rev. Mr. Claxton was present, also, at the first service held in the old Poor House, which afterward grew into the parish of St. Timothy's. Mr.

Claxton's incumbency, therefore, notwithstanding the difficulties that were in his way, through the very seriously depressed conditions of the times, was full of great and good work. His resignation of the parish, however, when it was laboring under the financial embarrassment of the times, together with an interregnum of eight months, prevented it from as promptly rallying as it might otherwise have done. Rev. Mr. Quick came to the work here with all these disadvantages to overcome, and it seemed as if it were impossible for him to succeed in this respect. All he could do was not sufficient to infuse new life and energy into the parish.

On April 23, 1866, Rev. F. H. Bushnell accepted the rectorship, and by this time the prospects had again brightened. The gift of a rectory being promised on the condition that the mortgage on the Sunday School building should be paid off; the condition was fulfilled, and the acquirement of the rectory aided much in providing a proper support for the Rector. The Church was renovated, the grounds improved, and the lot on Terrace Street, where St. Stephen's now stands, secured for a mission. That building was put under roof, and plans for a new Sunday School building at St. David's were prepared before Mr. Bushnell resigned, on December 8th, 1874, leaving the parish in good order and full of hope.

On Easter, 1875, he was followed by the Rev. Charles Logan. The material achievements of his regime stand today, and will stand for years unnumbered, as mountains to the work of the Church, in this community. It was in 1876 that the present Parish House was erected. Its cornerstone was laid on June 17th, and it was opened on Thanksgiving Day of the same year, having cost about \$14,000.

The completion and opening of the chapel on Terrace Street and the raising of the debt of \$900 upon it were speedily accomplished.

And then came a dispensation of Providence!—this

opened the way through another period of severe trial and effort for better things. On the 23rd of December, 1879, the old Church was destroyed by fire, after forty-four years of sacred use and associations. Four days later it was resolved to rebuild on a larger plan. No better testimony to the courage and deep interest of the people of that day could be adduced than within two years and three days the St. David's that we now know was consecrated. In May, 1880, the cornerstone of the present beautiful building was laid by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Stevens. The Bishop made a brief address, and was followed by several other speakers. The work progressed rapidly, under the careful personal supervision of the Building Committee, Messrs. James Stafford, Orlando Crease and George Missimer, the money coming in from many sources as it was required, and it was hoped to consecrate the new building on the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the parish—December 3, 1881: but that occasion had to be celebrated in the Sunday School building. Three weeks later, however, the consecration took place, on St. Stephen's Day, December 26th, the Bishop again officiating, and preaching the sermon from the text, "I, Jesus, have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the Churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David and the Bright and Morning Star," dwelling beautifully upon the thought that the name of St. David's links together the Old Testament and the New, and referring to the destruction of the Old Church as indeed a blessing in disguise.

The Church is of Birdsboro brownstone, 145 feet in total length, the nave being 100 feet, and the width across the transept 60 feet. The roof rises 50 feet above the floor, supported on heavy trusses, and the spire, with its cross, rises to the height of 156 feet.

The Church seats comfortably 800 people. Among its treasures is a large Bible, presented while the new building was in course of erection by the Rev. Dan Greatorex, B. D., then vicar of St. Paul's, Whitechapel, London, be-

tween which parish and St. David's there had been a close bond of sympathy.

Until 1886 the chapel on Terrace Street continued to be conducted as a mission of St. David's, but on Thanksgiving Day of that year it was organized into an independent church, under the rectorship of the Rev. Charles Russell Bonnell. Its relations with the mother Church, however, have always continued most pleasant.

Before continuing the history it seems fitting to record the names of some of the vestrymen who had, previous to, including, and succeeding this period, been much interested in the welfare of St. David's, and had served it long and faithfully. These are: Joseph Ripka, Tobias Wagner, Samuel Wagner, I. Caselberry, A. Crease, H. K. B. Ogle, Wm. Allen, Ed. Holt, Richard Moffett, George Bland, Wm. B. Stephens, Orlando Crease, S. T. Auge, Benj. Mitchell, J. B. Winpenny, W. P. Hodgson, James Stafford, Wm. Campbell, John Harper, George Howard, Wm. Frost, John Horrocks, Richard Hey, Wm. Davenport, Wm. Dawson.

On Easter, 1891, the Rev. Mr. Logan resigned the rectorship of St. David's, and was succeeded by the Rev. F. A. D. Launt, D. D., of St. John's Church, Auburn, N. Y. This was the longest rectorship on the records of the parish, ending in 1911. Under his charge the good work of the parish went on "strengthening its stakes."

In November, 1894, St. David's, being the mother Church, was made the centre of a ten-days' Joint Parochial Mission, participated in by the other three parishes of the ward, and conducted by the late Rev. Dr. E. A. Bradley, of St. Agnes' Chapel, N. Y., assisted by Rev. O. A. Glazebrook, of St. John's Church, Elizabeth, N. J. The mission, which many can still remember, with thankfulness, not only resulted in strengthening the church life of the community, but especially in drawing the people of the four local parishes into a closer bond of union in work and service.

Special attention must be made here to the Rector's warden, who had served as warden since 1866—namely Mr. Orlando Crease. Mr. Crease, who was treasurer of the Germantown Convocation, was Superintendent of the Sunday School, and served continuously as a representative of the parish in the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania from 1854. To his constant munificence, the half of which has never been told, the parish, under God, is chiefly indebted for its splendid plant, as well as for its rank and standing among the strong and influential churches of the diocese.

Mention must also be made of the Rector's assistant at this time, the Rev. J. W. Kaye, M. A., whose work was most efficient and acceptable.

The vestrymen who served in this long rectorship were: Orlando Crease, Robert Hey, Henry Birkhead, James Z. Holt, Charles W. Horrocks, George Howard, Henry Howard, Alfred Leech, B. A. Mitchell, Jr., Richard Shaw, John S. Stafford, William F. Thomas.

A most promising era was initiated in 1912 by the coming of the Rev. R. W. Woodrooffe, but the fulfillment was checked by the accepted call of Mr. Woodrooffe to another field.

On Christmas Day, 1912, began the rectorship of the late Edward Stewart Hale. "Just as the outward fabric of the Church building challenges the community to the acceptance of the rule of Christ, so the gloriously beautiful sanctuary in memory of the sainted Orlando Crease, installed under the rectorship of Mr. Hale, interprets to those who enter the gates of the Lord's House the love and beauty and the power of Him who is the centre of our life as Christian Disciples."

In 1918 Rev. Mr. Hale succumbed to the disease of influenza, which was then prevailing, and his body rests "until the day break" in the Churchyard. Shall we not

believe with the poet that "The tomb is but the gateway to an eternity of opportunity"?

The year 1918 saw the close of the Great War. It also brought us at St. David's as rector Captain Francis Barnett, lately returned from overseas. Captain Barnett was full of vigor and energy, and after three years decided to heed a call for African exploration. On January 14th, 1922, Captain Barnett sailed, his objective being the exploration of Northwestern Liberia, for the purpose of establishing extensive missionary enterprises there, if the location proved suitable. The Rev. Alex. Patman was left in charge of St. David's until Captain Barnett's return, in May of the same year. A few months later Captain Barnett tendered his resignation, and Rev. Mr. Patman again took charge, and so continued until the call was tendered to the Rev. J. Ogle Warfield, D. D., to become Rector.

This call was accepted, and Dr. Warfield began his work in February, 1923, and continues, as St. David's celebrates its One Hundredth Anniversary, December 3rd, 1931.

During the past ten or fifteen years there has been a decided change in the conditions at St. David's. The vicinity of the Church is a melting pot for many nationalities—and as many creeds—(or the absence of any). Many of our good, faithful parishioners have passed to their well earned rest, and many, whose love for St. David's would bring them to its portals very often, are handicapped by distance and the difficulties of a hilly district. (It has been of late years an uphill task to maintain, as it well deserves, the membership and the revenue of our loved institution.)

There is, however, no indebtedness of any kind on record at the present time. The five thousand dollar debt incurred in practically remodeling and electrifying the organ has been paid in full, so we may celebrate the cen-

tenary with the thought of freedom from any financial obligation.

Those serving as wardens and vestrymen at the present time are: William Ridler, Harry Kent, William Habby, George A. Ashworth, John Dennis, Benjamin Hincheliffe, Edward R. Koch, James Leech, Albert R. Nice, T. W. Ridler, Walter Righter, Harry J. Wylie.

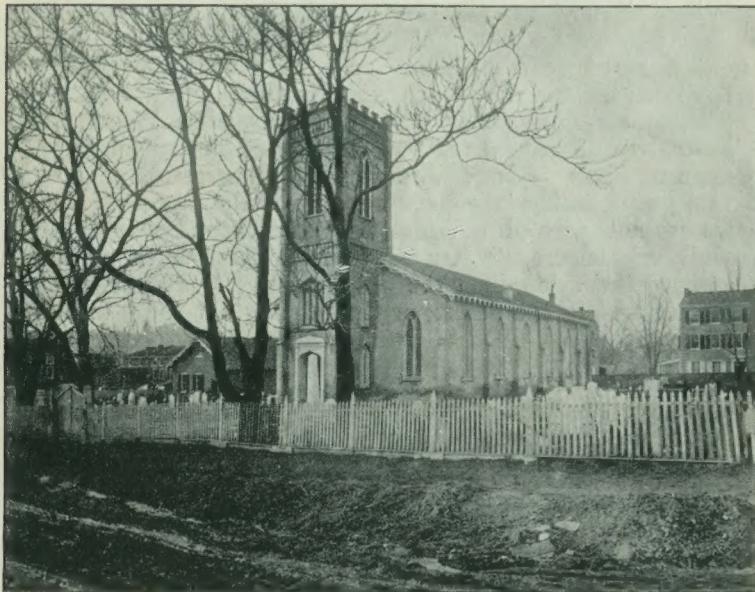
Thus we see what has been accomplished in the past one hundred years by men and women who have fought the good fight with St. David's as their citadel. Their work, their spirit, their accomplishment cannot be overestimated. What effect should their achievements have upon us who carry on? Are we worthy successors of those who gave so much for the spreading of the Kingdom? If we are not, with all our material advantages, spiritual aid and more leisure, "better than our fathers," shall we not deserve the fate which the prophet prayed for under the juniper tree in the desert, or the rebuke that came to him at Horb?

Rather, "Let us take heart and go forward to anoint our successors, and strive together for the faith once delivered to the saints."

In the words of the Rev. M. C. Lightner, in his resignation as Rector in 1850, "May He, from whom all good things do come, continue His blessings upon this interesting parish, and cause it to be, like Sion of old, 'the perfection of beauty and the joy of the whole earth.' Let us fervently add "Amen."

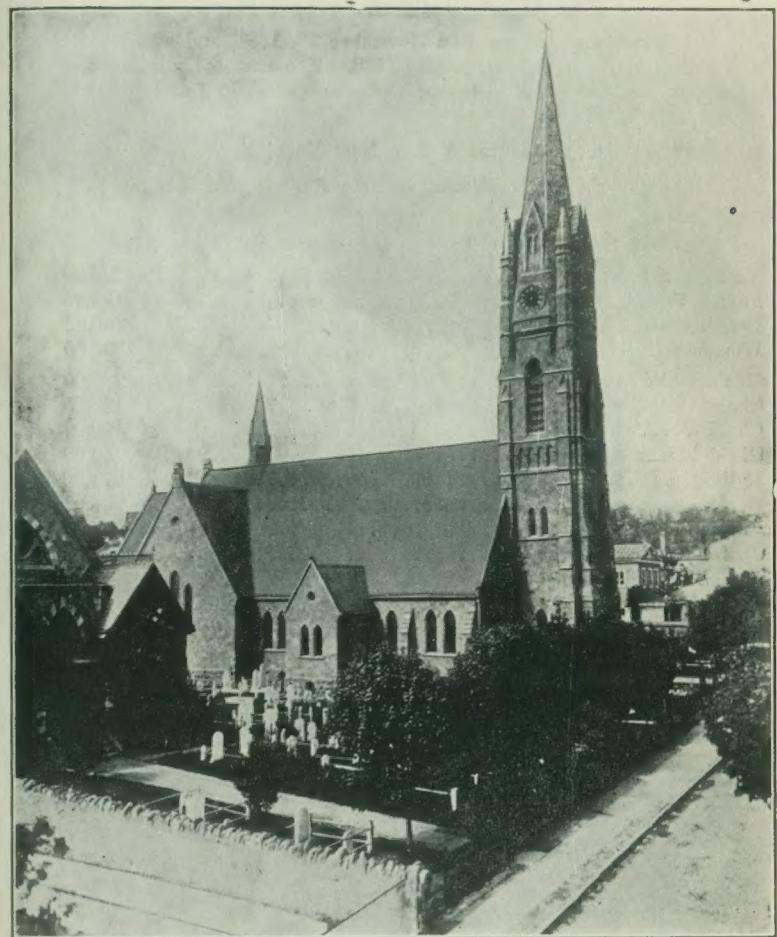
SECOND CHURCH

(An Enlargement of the First Church)



Re-dedicated December 20, 1857

Destroyed by Fire December 23, 1879



THE PRESENT CHURCH

ORGAN FUND REPORT

The Organ was dedicated on November 28, 1881, and was rebuilt and rededicated on September 16, 1928. The cost of building and rebuilding was accomplished by the various organizations and members of the parish.

Built by George Jardine & Son, New York, N. Y.

Rebuilt by F. A. Bartholemay & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa. .

Amounts collected from Organizations, Individuals, Etc.—

Vestry	\$ 220.00
Parish School	196.93
Parish Aid	300.00
Women's Guild	300.00
Men's Guild	205.00
Choir Guild	160.00
Choir	90.00
Girls' Friendly	50.00
Individuals	371.00
Organ Boxes	964.07
Ralph Schulz	35.00
Junior Choir	45.00
Mrs. Schofield's Class	50.00
Girls' Friendly Candidates	15.00
Organ Fund, Sunday, June 24, 1928	503.78
Special Fund	914.28
Organ Fund, Sunday, May 10, 1931	333.66

	\$4,753.72

Expenses

Amounts paid by Accounting Warden—

F. A. Bartholemay & Sons.....	\$4,240.00
Interest on Bank Loans.....	170.86

	\$4,410.86

Amounts paid by Organ Committee—

May 13, 1928—Organ Boxes	\$ 3.50
May 30, 1928—Organ Boxes	7.00
June 18, 1928—Envelopes	8.70
June 27, 1928—Printing notices and envelopes.....	5.50
June 28, 1928—Printing programs	15.60
June 28, 1928—Rev. R. W. Woodroffe, exp.	42.00
July 9, 1928—Piano moving	5.00
Aug. 27, 1928—Tinsmithing work	55.00
Aug. 27, 1928—Lumber	3.31
Sept. 2, 1928—Nails35
Sept. 4, 1928—Carpentry work	22.95
Sept. 6, 1928—Stamps and envelopes.....	9.90
Sept. 16, 1928—Carpentry	2.75
Sept. 19, 1928—Electrical work	106.70
Sept. 19, 1928—Moving piano	5.00
May 8, 1929—Organ Rack	9.00
June 7, 1929—Carpentry	1.50

	\$ 303.76

Total Expenses	\$4,714.62
Amount Collected	\$4,753.72
Amount Expended	4,714.62

Balance in hands of Accounting Warden.....	\$ 39.10
Balance in hands of Organ Committee.....	\$ 33.66
	5.44

ORGAN COMMITTEE

WILLIAM RIDLER, *Chairman.*
 JAMES W. LEECH, *Secy. and Treas.*
 GEORGE A. ASHWORTH,
 STEPHEN HOWARD.

Philadelphia, Pa., June 20, 1931.

The Vestry

WILLIAM RIDLER *Rector's Warden*

HARRY KENT *Accounting Warden*

BENJAMIN HINCHCLIFFE JAMES LEECH

T. WILLIAM RIDLER EDWARD R. KOCH

GEORGE A. ASHWORTH JOHN DENNIS

WILLIAM HABBY ALBERT R. NICE

HENRY J. WYLIE WALTER RIGHTER

HERBERT M. BUTCHER, A.A.G.O. *Organist*

WILLIAM BUZBY *Sexton*

Committee for the 100th Anniversary

WILLIAM RIDLER *Chairman*

HARRY KENT *Treasurer*



The Rector
REV. J. OGLE WARFIELD

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29th

First Advent

8.00 A. M.—*Holy Communion*

10.45 A. M.

PROCESSIONAL—No. 530

VENITE—Turle

TE DEUM—Barrett in Eb

BENEDICTUS—Anon

HYMN—No. 57

SERMON

OFFERTORY—"The Lord is King" *Butcher*

RECESSIONAL—No. 532

7.30 P. M.

PROCESSIONAL—No. 535

MAGNIFICAT—Butcher in Eb

NUNC DIMITTIS—Butcher in Eb

HYMN—No. 212

SERMON—Rev. Francis B. Barnett

OFFERTORY—"Hark, Hark My Soul" *Shelley*

RECESSIONAL—No. 538

ORGANIZATION NIGHT

Monday, November 30th

Committee

MR. BENJAMIN HINCHCLIFFE MR. GEORGE A. ASHWORTH

Brief Historical Reports

VESTRY

SCOUTS

PARISH AID

CHOIR GUILD

MEN'S GUILD

CANDIDATES OF G. F. S.

WOMEN'S GUILD

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

GIRLS' FRIENDLY

MOTHERS' CLUB

ALTAR GUILD

Novelty Play

Cast

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH

COMMUNITY NIGHT

Tuesday, December 1st

Committee

MR. EDWARD KOCH

MR. ALBERT R. NICE

Informal Reception

8.00 to 10.00 P. M.

Addresses by Clergymen of the Community



ORLANDO CREASE
A Life-long Worker and Liberal Benefactor

CHURCH SCHOOL NIGHT

Wednesday, December 2nd

Committee

MR. JOHN DENNIS

MR. WILLIAM HABBY

8.00 P. M.—Amos N. Andy

8.15 P. M.—Bed Time Story
Mother Goose

9.00 P. M.—Dansant Review

9.15 P. M.—Topics for Milady

9.30 P. M.—Concert Music

9.45 P. M.—Reminiscences

10.00 P. M.—Correct Time

Weather Report

Variety Program

10.15 P. M.—Housekeeper's Home Hints

10.30 P. M.—Auditorium Presentation

MUSIC NIGHT

Thursday, December 3rd

Committee

MR. WALTER RIGHTER

MR. HENRY J. WYLIE

Organ Recitals

MR. GEO. A. A. WEST, F.A.G.O., A.R.C.O.

St. Luke's Church, Germantown

MR. JAS. H. LORD, F.A.G.O., A.R.C.O.

Calvary Church, Germantown

MAGNIFICAT IN Eb—Butcher *Choir*GLORIA—B. Peccia *Roxborough Male Chorus*
W. C. Ames, DirectorEXTASE—L. Ganne—Harp, *Dorothy Power*
Violin, *Helen Behre*
Cello, *Katharine Crouch*THINE IS THE KINGDOM—Gaul *Choir*LOVE DIVINE—Stainer *Horace Lane-Mrs. W. Kipp*QUATUOR—Saint Saens *Harp-Violin-Cello-Organ*THANKS BE TO GOD—Salter *Roxborough Male Chorus*AIR ON G STRING—Bach *Gordan Thomas, B.M.*THE LORD IS MY LIGHT—Allitsen *Horace Lane*GLORIA—Mozart *Choir*AVE MARIA—Gounod *Harp-Violin-Cello-Organ*

CONGREGATIONAL NIGHT

Friday, December 4th

Committee

MR. T. W. RIDLER

MR. JAMES LEECH

*Reunion of
Former and Present Members*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S NIGHT

Saturday, December 5th

MR. HENRY J. WYLIE, Committee



PRESENT CHANCEL

Furnished as Memorial

to

Orlando Crease